



Small numbers of protesters gather at fortified U.S. capitols

By DAVID A. LIEB and ADAM GELLER
Associated Press

Small groups of right-wing protesters — some of them carrying rifles — gathered outside heavily fortified statehouses around the country Sunday, outnumbered by National Guard troops and police brought in to prevent a repeat of the violence that erupted at the U.S. Capitol.

As darkness began to fall, there were no reports of any clashes.

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Members of the Washington National Guard stand at a sundial near the Legislative Building, Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021, at the Capitol in Olympia, Wash.

Associated Press



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Small numbers of protesters gather at fortified U.S. capitols

Continued from Front

Security was stepped up in recent days after the FBI warned of the potential for armed protests in Washington and at all 50 state capitol buildings ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration on Wednesday.

Crowds of only a dozen or two people demonstrated at some boarded-up, cordoned-off statehouses, while the streets in many other capital cities remained empty. Some protesters said they were there to back President Donald Trump. Others said they had instead come to voice their support for gun rights or oppose government overreach.

"I don't trust the results of the election," said Michigan protester Martin Szlag, a 67-year-old semi-retired window salesman from Dearborn Heights. He wore a sign around his neck that read, in part, "We will support Joe Biden as our President if you can convince us he won legally. Show us the proof! Then the healing can begin." As the day



Dale Gibson, of Jackson, Miss., shows off the banner he planned to hold as a counter-protester if a pro-Trump rally materialized Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

wore on with no bloodshed around the U.S., a sense of relief spread among officials, though they were not ready to let their guard down. The heavy law enforcement presence may have kept turnout down. In the past few days, some extremists had warned others against falling into what they called a law enforcement trap.

Washington State Patrol spokesman Chris Loftis said he hoped the apparently peaceful day reflected some soul-searching among Americans.

"I would love to say that it's because we've all taken a sober look in the mirror and have decided that we are a more unified people than certain moments in time would indicate," he said. The security measures were intended to safeguard seats of government from the type of violence that broke out at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, when far-right Trump supporters galvanized by his unproven claims that the election had been stolen from him overran the outnumbered police and bashed their

way into building while Congress was certifying the Electoral College vote.

The attack left a Capitol Police officer and four others dead. More than 125 people have been arrested on charges related to the insurrection.

Dozens of courts, state election officials and Trump's own attorney general have all said there was no evidence of widespread election fraud.

On Sunday, some statehouses were surrounded by new protective fences, had boarded-up windows and were patrolled by extra police. Legislatures generally were not in session over the weekend.

Tall fences also surrounded the U.S. Capitol. The National Mall was closed to the public, and the mayor of Washington asked people not to visit. Some 25,000 National Guard troops from around the country are ex-

pected to arrive in the city in the coming days.

The roughly 20 protesters who showed up at Michigan's Capitol, including some who were armed, were significantly outnumbered by law enforcement officers and media.

At the Ohio Statehouse, about two dozen people, including several carrying long guns, protested outside under the watchful eyes of state troopers before dispersing as it began to snow.

Kathy Sherman, who was wearing a visor with "Trump" printed on it, said she supports the president but distanced herself from the mob that breached the U.S. Capitol.

"I'm here to support the right to voice a political view or opinion without fear of censorship, harassment or the threat of losing my job or being physically assaulted," she said. □



President-elect Joe Biden campaigns in Atlanta, Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, for Senate candidates Raphael Warnock, right, and Jon Ossoff, left.

Associated Press

Tribute to King, rebuke of demagogues in Warnock sermon

ATLANTA (AP) — A day before the nation's annual holiday celebrating life of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Sen.-elect Raphael Warnock of Georgia returned to the pulpit at the church that was King's spiritual home, calling for the nation to adhere to "God's vision of equity." Warnock's wide-ranging holiday message included a tribute to King and a remembrance of his last days organizing an anti-poverty crusade before he was gunned down in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1968. "The tragedy is that the minimum wage had more purchasing power in 1968 than the minimum wage does in 2021," he said at one point.

Warnock decried the pain and death of the COVID-19 pandemic. And he called the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump, "an unthinkable attack on the very house of the people by those who are driven by the worst impulses, stirred up by demagogues." □

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Vice President-elect Harris to resign her Senate seat Monday

By BILL BARROW

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) —

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris will resign her Senate seat on Monday, two days before she and President-elect Joe Biden are inaugurated.

Aides to the California Democrat confirmed the timing and said Gov. Gavin Newsom was aware of her decision, clearing the way for him to appoint fellow Democrat Alex Padilla, now California's secretary of state, to serve the final two years of Harris' term.

Padilla will be the first Latino senator from California, where about 40% of residents are Hispanic. Newsom announced his choice in December, following intense lobbying for the rare Senate vacancy from the nation's most populous state.

Harris will give no farewell Senate floor speech. The Senate is not scheduled to reconvene until Tuesday, the eve of Inauguration Day, two weeks after supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol as lawmakers were meeting to affirm Biden's election victory.

That siege, Harris said in an interview broadcast Sunday, "was seismic. It was



In this Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020 file photo, Vice President-elect Kamala Harris speaks as she and President-elect Joe Biden introduce their nominees and appointees to key national security and foreign policy posts at The Queen theater, in Wilmington, Del.

an inflection moment. You know, sometimes we think an inflection moment is the bringing of something that is positive. No. It was in many ways a reckoning. It was an exposure of the vulnerability of our democracy."

Padilla's arrival, along with Harris becoming the Senate's presiding officer when she's sworn-in as vice president, is part of Democrats' upcoming Senate majority. But the party still needs Sens.-elect Jon Ossoff and

Raphael Warnock of Georgia to be certified as victors in their Jan. 5 elections and then be sworn in.

Harris is the first woman ever elected vice president — and the first Black woman and first woman of South Asian descent to serve in that office. But her Senate departure leaves the chamber's roster without a Black woman. Harris was just the second Black female senator, winning her California election 17 years after Democrat Carol

Moseley Braun finished a single term representing Illinois.

Among many potential successors to Harris, Newsom passed over at least two prominent Black women, U.S. Reps. Karen Bass and Barbara Lee. Bass also was among Biden's finalists for running mate.

Democrats were in the minority during Harris' four years on Capitol Hill. Perhaps her biggest mark came as a fierce questioner of judicial nominees and

other witnesses as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Harris was viewed as a future presidential candidate almost immediately upon joining the Senate in 2017. She announced her White House bid in January 2019 but dropped out the subsequent December after a lackluster campaign and before the ballots were cast in Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses. Biden, himself a former senator, invited her to join the national ticket in August.

The wins by Ossoff and Warnock in Georgia ensured a 50-50 Senate, positioning Harris as the tie-breaking vote for Democratic control. But Ossoff and Warnock cannot join the chamber until Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger certifies the final vote tally. Raffensperger, a Republican, has said he could act as soon as Tuesday, conceivably allowing Padilla, Ossoff and Warnock to join the Senate together as early as that afternoon's session.

But Republicans will maintain a narrow majority until all three take office and Harris sits in the presiding officer's chair.

Harris' early departure from the Senate has multiple precedents. □

Associated Press

March for Life asks its supporters to stay home this year

By DAVID CRARY

AP National Writer

Organizers of the March for Life, the anti-abortion movement's preeminent annual event, are asking their supporters nationwide not to gather in Washington this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic and political unrest.

Instead, a small group of invited anti-abortion leaders will march Jan. 29, and the event will be livestreamed, March for Life's president, Jeanne Mancini, announced Friday.

"Since we are in the midst of a pandemic which may be peaking, and in view of the heightened pressures that law enforcement officers and others are current-

ly facing in and around the Capitol, this year's March for Life will look different," she said. "The annual rally will take place virtually and we are asking all participants to stay home and to join the March virtually."

Tim Tebow, the football star, is still scheduled to make a keynote speech at a virtual gala taking place after the downsized march, Mancini said. Mancini said she looks forward to holding the event in person next year. The march has been held annually since 1974, one year after the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion across in the United States. Even blizzards in 1987 and 2016 did not force cancel-

lation, although turnouts were smaller than usual.

Local March for Life events also have been affected this year. State marches in Arkansas and Oregon have been indefinitely postponed, while a march planned in Tucson, Arizona, was converted into a car caravan dubbed the Road Rally for Life.

The annual National Prayer Vigil for Life, usually held the night before the national march at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, will instead be a livestreamed event, with bishops participating virtually from across the U.S.

A year ago, President Donald Trump became the first



In this Friday, Jan. 24, 2020 file photo, anti-abortion activists participate in the "March for Life" rally near Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

sitting U.S. president to address the March for Life. Trump became a hero to many anti-abortion activists for appointing Supreme

Court justices and other federal judges viewed as open to the possibility of repealing or weakening the Roe v. Wade ruling. □

'Little old West Virginia' sets pace on vaccine rollout



Ric Griffith poses for a portrait outside a pharmacy he owns Friday, Jan. 15, 2021, in Kenova, W.Va.

Associated Press

By CUNEY DIL
Associated Press
KENOVA, W.Va. (AP) — Griffith & Feil Drug has been in business since 1892, a family-owned, small-town pharmacy. This isn't their first pandemic. More than a century after helping West Virginians confront the Spanish flu in 1918, the drugstore in Kenova, a community of about 3,000 people, is helping the state lead the nation in COVID-19 vaccine distribution. West Virginia has emerged as an unlikely success in the nation's otherwise chaotic vaccine rollout, largely because of the state's decision to reject a federal partnership with CVS and Walgreens and instead enlist mom-and-pop pharmacies to vaccinate residents against the virus that has killed over 395,000 Americans. More shots have gone into people's arms per capita across West Virginia than in any other state, with at least 7.5% of the population

receiving the first of two shots, according to federal data. West Virginia was the first in the nation to finish offering first doses to all long-term care centers before the end of December, and the state expects to give second doses at those facilities by the end of January. "Boy, have we noticed that. I think the West Virginia model is really one that we would love for a lot more states to adopt," said John Beckner, a pharmacist who works at the Alexandria, Virginia-based National Community Pharmacists Association, which advocates for pharmacies across the country. It's early in the process, but that has not stopped Republican Gov. Jim Justice from proclaiming that the vaccine effort runs counter to preconceived notions about the Mountaineer State. "Little old West Virginia, that was thought of for hundreds of years, you know, as a place where maybe

we were backward or dark or dingy," Justice said last week. Instead, it turns out that "West Virginia has been the diamond in the rough," Justice said on CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday. Rather than relying on national chains, 250 local pharmacists set up clinics in rural communities. The fact that residents who may be wary of the vaccine seem to trust them makes a difference. "As my uncle always told me, these people aren't your customers, they're your friends and neighbors," said Ric Griffith, the pharmacist at Griffith & Feil in Kenova, a town near the Kentucky state line. A chatty raconteur and former mayor of Kenova, he can recall generations of patrons frequenting the shop, which is almost unchanged since the 1950s, with a soda fountain and jukebox in the front and prescriptions in the back. Griffith, 71, began taking over the pharmacy

from his father in the early 1990s and was elected to the House of Delegates as a Democrat last year. His daughter, Heidi Griffith Romero, 45, followed into the family business and is also administering shots. Holding a vaccination clinic at the town high school, he recalled his uncle telling him he lost four classmates to the 1918 flu pandemic, which killed more than 50 million people worldwide. "And it was a tragedy that I thought I would never be involved with," he said, taking a break from giving vaccines to teachers aged 50 and over. When Mark Hayes, a middle school guidance counselor in Kenova, walked up to receive his first dose, he spotted Griffith, who holds local celebrity status for hosting an extravagant annual Halloween pumpkin-carving party that attracts thousands. "I recognized him right away," Hayes said. "The Pumpkin King? Are you giving me the shot?"

Kevin Roberts, a 59-year-old school bus driver in Kenova, said "it makes a difference" for a pharmacist he knows to administer the shots. "I hope that a lot of these skeptics change their mind," he said. Officials also credit a 50-person command center at the state's National Guard headquarters in the capital of Charleston. Inside a cavernous hall, leaders of the vaccine operation and state health officials sit between plexiglass dividers to oversee shipments of the precious doses to five hubs. From there, deliveries go to drugstores and local health departments. CVS has so far declined to work with state officials on vaccinating people at its stores, but Walgreens is participating and has joined in to hold clinics at some nursing homes, officials said. The federal partnership involving both companies would have allowed Washington officials to dictate the terms of nursing home vaccinations, said Marty Wright, the head of the West Virginia Health Care Association, which represents health care companies. "If the state would've activated the federal plan, the state would've had zero control over the situation," Wright said. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar praised West Virginia's efforts to vaccinate the elderly. "Expanding eligibility to all of the vulnerable is the fastest way to protect the vulnerable," Azar said Tuesday at an Operation Warp Speed meeting. He also highlighted Connecticut as a bright spot in the vaccine rollout. Given West Virginia's success so far, leaders are now seeking more doses so they can open vaccinations for more groups. The Griffith & Feil store has had to decline shots for out-of-state customers who caught word of West Virginia's success. The governor recently lowered the age of eligibility for members of the general public to 70. □

Kremlin critic Navalny detained after landing in Moscow

By **MSTYSLAV CHERNOV**
and **JIM HEINTZ**
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny was arrested Sunday at a Moscow airport as he tried to enter the country from Germany, where he had spent five months recovering from nerve agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin. Navalny's detention at passport control in Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport was widely expected because Russia's prisons service said he had violated parole terms from a suspended sentence on a 2014 embezzlement conviction.

The prisons service said he would be held in custody until a court rules on his case. No date for a court appearance was immediately announced. The service earlier said that it would seek to have Navalny serve his 3 1/2-year sentence behind bars.

Navalny, 44, who is President Vladimir Putin's most prominent and determined foe, brushed off concerns about arrest as he boarded the plane in Berlin.

"It's impossible. I'm an innocent man," he said.

The arrest raises tensions in Russia as it approaches national parliament elections this year, in which Navalny's organization is expected to be active in trying to defeat pro-Kremlin candi-



Alexei Navalny sits on the plane prior to a flight to Moscow, at the Airport Berlin Brandenburg (BER) in Schoenefeld, near Berlin, Germany, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021.

dates. Navalny decided to leave Berlin of his own free will and wasn't under any apparent pressure to leave from Germany.

"This is a real act of bravery for Alexei Navalny to return to Russia, given that government agents already tried to kill him once," Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth tweeted. "But he understandably wants to be part of the pro-democracy movement in Russia, not a dissident in exile."

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's pick for national security adviser called on Russian authorities to free Navalny.

"Mr. Navalny should be immediately released, and the perpetrators of the outrageous attack on his life must be held accountable," Jake Sullivan said in a tweet.

Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, responded to a question about the arrest by saying "Was he arrested in Germany? I'm not up to date," according to the online news site Podyom. Peskov, like Putin, is noted for avoiding saying Navalny's name.

Navalny has sizable popularity in Moscow. Many supporters on Sunday went to Vnukovo airport where his flight was scheduled to

land, though it was diverted to Sheremetyevo without explanation.

The OVD-Info organization that monitors political arrests said at least 53 people were arrested, including Navalny supporters and journalists, at Vnukovo, where where the arrivals hall had been blocked off and prisoner transport vehicles were parked outside. There were at least three detentions at Sheremetyevo, it said.

The independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta and opposition social media reported Sunday that several Navalny supporters in St. Petersburg had been

removed from Moscow-bound trains or been prevented from boarding flights late Saturday and early Sunday, including the coordinator of his staff for the region of Russia's second-largest city.

Navalny fell into a coma while aboard a domestic flight from Siberia to Moscow on Aug. 20. He was transferred from a hospital in Siberia to a Berlin hospital two days later.

Labs in Germany, France and Sweden, and tests by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, established that he was exposed to a Soviet-era Novichok nerve agent.

Russian authorities insisted that the doctors who treated Navalny in Siberia before he was airlifted to Germany found no traces of poison and have challenged German officials to provide proof of his poisoning. Russia refused to open a full-fledged criminal inquiry, citing a lack of evidence that Navalny was poisoned.

Last month, Navalny released the recording of a phone call he said he made to a man he described as an alleged member of a group of officers of the Federal Security Service, or FSB, who purportedly poisoned him in August and then tried to cover it up. The FSB dismissed the recording as fake. □

Official: Gunmen kill two women judges in Afghan capital

By **TAMEEM AKHGAR**
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Gunmen fired on a car in northern Kabul on Sunday, killing two women judges who worked for Afghanistan's high court and wounding the driver, a court official said. It was the latest attack in the Afghan capital during peace talks between Taliban and Afghan government officials in Qatar.

Supreme Court of Afghanistan spokesman Ahmad Fahim Qawim, said the women were judges who worked for the high court

but he did not identify them by name.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack and Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the insurgent group wasn't responsible. The Afghan government has repeatedly blamed the Taliban for targeted killings in recent months and the insurgent group accuses the government of staging the killings to spoil the peace process.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for multiple attacks in the capital in recent months, including on educational institu-

tions that killed 50 people, most of them students.

IS has also claimed responsibility for rocket attacks in December targeting the major U.S. base in Afghanistan. There were no casualties.

The Taliban and the Afghan government earlier this month resumed peace talks in Qatar.

Negotiations were off to a slow start as the insurgent group continues attacks on Afghan government forces while keeping their promise not to attack U.S. and NATO troops. □



An Afghan man sweeps blood after Gunmen fired in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

Indonesian teams find more bodies from quake that killed 78

By **MUHAMMAD RIFKI and YUSUF WAHIL**

Associated Press

MAMUJU, Indonesia (AP) —

Indonesian rescuers on Sunday retrieved more bodies from the rubble of homes and buildings toppled by a strong earthquake, raising the death toll to 78, while military engineers managed to reopen ruptured roads to clear access for relief goods.

More heavy equipment reached the hardest-hit city of Mamuju and the neighboring district of Majene on Sulawesi island, where the magnitude 6.2 quake struck early Friday, said Raditya Jati, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency's spokesperson.

A total of 67 people died in Mamuju and 11 in Majene, said the director of preparedness for the National Search and Rescue Agency, Didi Hamzar.

Power supplies and phone communications have begun to improve in the quake areas.

Thousands of people were left homeless and more than 800 were injured, with more than half of them still receiving treatment for serious injuries, Jati said.

The disaster agency's data showed that nearly 27,850 survivors were moved to shelters. Most of them



A police officer leads a sniffer dog during a search of victims at the ruin of a building flattened by an earthquake in Mamuju, West Sulawesi, Indonesia, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

went to makeshift shelters that have been lashed by heavy monsoon downpours. Only a few were lucky to be protected by tarpaulin-covered tents.

They said they were running low on food, blankets and other aid, as emergency supplies were rushed to the hard-hit region.

"We are unable to return to our destroyed homes," said a father of three who identified himself only as Robert. He said he fled from his bed while being treated at Mamuju's Mitra Mana-

karra hospital, which was flattened by the quake. He and his family are among thousands of displaced people who took shelter in a hilly area.

He said his bed was shaking when he awoke and realized that it was an earthquake. He then removed a drip from his hand and ran out. He had seen several nurses helping patients who were unable to move before the building collapsed. "I cried when I saw the hospital where I was being treated collapse with

people still inside. I could have died if I got out late," he said.

Rescuers managed to retrieve four survivors and four bodies from the rubble of the flattened hospital, according to the Search and Rescue Agency.

Jati said that at least 1,150 houses in Majene were damaged and that the agency was still collecting data on damaged houses and buildings in Mamuju.

Mamuju, the provincial capital of nearly 300,000 people, was strewn with

debris from collapsed buildings. The governor's office building was almost flattened by the quake and a shopping mall was reduced to a crumpled hulk. The disaster agency said the army corps of engineers cleared the road connecting Mamuju and Majene that had been blocked by landslides. They also rebuilt a damaged bridge.

The disaster agency's chief, Doni Monardo, said authorities were trying to separate high- and lower-risk groups and provided tens of thousands of masks for refugees to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in the crowded camps. He said authorities would also set up health posts at the camps to test people for the virus.

People being housed in temporary shelters were seen standing close together, many of them without masks.

"In this emergency situation ... it is difficult for us to observe health protocols," said Fatimah Zahra, a Mamuju resident who moved to a makeshift shelter.

West Sulawesi province has recorded more than 2,500 cases of the coronavirus, including 58 deaths. Indonesia has confirmed nearly 908,000 cases and almost 26,000 fatalities. □

Israel OKs hundreds of settlement homes in last-minute push



This Nov. 15, 2020 file photo, shows a general view of the Givat Hamatos Israeli settlement in east Jerusalem.

Associated Press

By **JOSEF FEDERMAN**

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli authorities on Sunday advanced plans to build nearly 800 homes in West Bank settlements, in a last-minute surge of approvals before the friendly Trump

administration leaves office later this week.

COGAT, the Israeli defense body that authorizes settlement construction, confirmed the approvals, which drew swift condemnations from the Palestinians.

The anti-settlement monitoring group Peace Now said that over 90% of the homes lay deep inside the West Bank, which the Palestinians seek as the heartland of a future independent state, and over 200 homes were located in unauthorized outposts that the government had decided to legalize.

Israel has stepped up settlement construction during President Donald Trump's term. According to Peace Now, Israel approved or advanced construction of over 12,000 settlement homes in 2020, the highest number in a single year since it began recording statistics in 2012.

"By promoting hundreds

of settlement units, Prime Minister Netanyahu is once again putting his personal political interests over those of the country," the group said. "Not only will this settlement activity erode the possibility for a conflict-ending resolution with the Palestinians in the long-term, but in the short-term it needlessly sets Israel on a collision course with the incoming Biden administration."

Netanyahu's office said last week he would seek approvals for the latest construction projects. They include 100 homes in Tal Me-nashe, a settlement where an Israeli woman was killed last month in an attack for which a Palestinian man

has been charged.

The Palestinians claim all of the West Bank, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, as part of a future independent state. They say the growing settler population, approaching some 500,000 people, makes it increasingly difficult to achieve their dream of independence.

Nabil Abu Rdeneh, spokesman for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, said Sunday's decision marked a "preemptive attempt by the Israeli government to undermine any effort that the U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's administration might make to relaunch the stalled peace process." □

Guatemala forces stall migrant caravan with tear gas, batons

By SANDRA SEBASTIAN

Associated Press

VADO HONDO, Guatemala (AP) —

Guatemalan police and soldiers launched tear gas and wielded batons against a group of Honduran migrants that tried to push through their roadblock early Sunday.

A group of about 2,000 migrants had stopped short of the roadblock the night before. The roadblock was strategically placed at a chokepoint on the two-lane highway to Chiquimula in an area known as Vado Hondo. It's flanked by a tall mountainside and a wall leaving the migrants with few options.

Some 100 migrants tried to make their way through authorities around 7:30 a.m. Sunday. The security forces beat them back and deployed tear gas. None made it through and the larger remaining contingent kept its distance during the melee.

Some migrants were visibly injured by baton strikes. One man, who did not give his name, leaned against a wall near police with a bandage atop his head. "They hit me in the head," he said. "I didn't come with the intention of looking for problems with anybody. We're brothers, Central Americans. We're not looking for trouble. We just want to pass."



A Honduran migrant is tended to by Guatemalan soldiers after they clashed with them in a bid to reach the U.S. border in Vado Hondo, Guatemala, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

Later, hundreds of migrants sat down on the roadway, refusing to leave and insisting they be allowed through, appealing to the soldiers as fellow Central Americans.

Leila Rodriguez, of Guatemala's human rights office, spoke to the migrants, acknowledging "this is a distressing moment we're experiencing." "We want to start a dialogue with you, to ask you to accept some of the needs of the Guatemalan people right now," Rodriguez said, in apparent reference to President Alejandro Giammattei's

refusal to allow caravans through out of fear they could spread COVID-19. Some of the migrants wore face masks, others didn't, but there was little social distancing among them. Few had the negative COVID-19 tests that Guatemala requires for people entering the country. As the standoff stretched toward 24 hours, some migrants, like Ismael Eliazar of Choloma, Honduras, lay down in the grass beside the roadway. "We have only had water, even my stomach is grumbling," Eliazar said.

Referring to the damage wrought by two major hurricanes that hit his hometown near San Pedro Sula in November, Eliazar said "there is still mud everywhere there, everything got knocked down, we lost everything." Guatemalan soldiers and police had blocked part of a caravan of as many as 9,000 Honduran migrants Saturday night at a point not far from where they entered the country, seeking to reach the U.S. border. The soldiers and riot police — about 450 in total — formed ranks across a

highway.

Guatemala's immigration agency distributed a video showing a couple of hundred men scuffling with soldiers, pushing and running through their lines, even as troops held hundreds more back Saturday night.

On Saturday, Giammattei issued a statement calling on Honduran authorities "to contain the mass exit of its inhabitants." On Friday, the migrants entered Guatemala by pushing past about 2,000 police and soldiers posted at the border; most entered without showing the negative coronavirus test that Guatemala requires.

"The government of Guatemala regrets this violation of national sovereignty and calls on the governments of Central America to take measures to avoid putting their inhabitants at risk amid the health emergency due to the pandemic," Giammattei's statement continued.

Guatemala has set up almost a dozen control points on highways, and may start busing more migrants back to Honduras, as it has done before, arguing they pose a risk to themselves and others by traveling during the coronavirus pandemic. Governments throughout the region have made it clear they will not let the caravan through. □

Egypt unveils ancient funerary temple south of Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's former antiquities minister and noted archaeologist Zahi Hawass on Sunday revealed details of an ancient funerary temple in a vast necropolis south of Cairo. Hawass told reporters at the Saqqara necropolis that archaeologists unearthed the temple of Queen Neit, wife of King Teti, the first king of the Sixth Dynasty that ruled Egypt from 2323 B.C. till 2150 B.C. Archaeologists also found a 4-meter (13-foot) long papyrus that includes texts of the Book of the Dead, which is a collection of spells aimed at directing the dead through

the underworld in ancient Egypt, he said. Hawass said archaeologists also unearthed burial wells, coffins and mummies dating back to the New Kingdom that ruled Egypt between about 1570 B.C. and 1069 B.C. They unveiled at least 22 burial shafts up to 12 meters (40 feet) deep, with more than 50 wooden coffins dating back to the New Kingdom, said Hawass, who is Egypt's best known archaeologist.

Hawass, known for his Indiana Jones hat and TV specials on Egypt's ancient sites, said work has been done at the site close to the Pyramid of Teti for over

a decade. The discovery was the result of cooperation between the Antiquities Ministry and the Zahi Hawass Center at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The Saqqara site is part of the necropolis at Egypt's ancient capital of Memphis that includes the famed Giza pyramids as well as smaller pyramids at Abu Sir, Dahshur and Abu Ruwaysh. The ruins of Memphis were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1970s. In recent years, Egypt has heavily promoted new archaeological finds to international media and diplomats in the hope of attracting more tourists to the



A trove of ancient coffins and artifacts on display that Egyptian archaeologist Zahi Hawass and his team unearthed in a vast necropolis, in Saqqara, south of Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021.

Associated Press

country. The vital tourism sector suffered from years of political turmoil and vio-

lence that followed a 2011 uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak. □

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ORANJESTAD — What you see is what you get. These descriptions suit both the restaurant and the owner. Straightforward, honest, pure and local. "Taste My Aruba is all about honest food, it is culture. Quality is my credo and my heart is in this place," says owner Nathaly de Mey, who personally selects the fish caught daily at the port. "We have a different menu every day depending on what the fishermen bring in." Taste My Aruba opened on July 10th, 2018; and this ship has been sailing steadily towards more and more great reviews. If it were not for the food, the enchanting outside terrace would be worth it all.

At Padu Lampe Plaza in the heart of Oranjestad, you will find a renovated monumental building which used to be the governor's mansion. Inside, it is all about local art and crafts, the creative center, Cosecha, is open during the day. At 6 p.m., you will find the most romantically-lit terrace under a canopy of trees with tables set up for you to indulge in delectable food. The most curious thing is this place is so unpretentious. Ceviche, Lobster Tower, Grouper Fish Cakes and Lobster Bisque are some of the divine starters. Drunken Shrimp Linguini in Creamy Garlic Sauce or Lobster with Truffle Mash will make you happy. The entire menu improves your mood. But don't worry; there are also options for meat lovers.

Sustainable & local

"I buy local out of principle and I stick to that. I wish to support Arubans and by buying 100-300 kg of fish each week I give back to the fishermen and their families," says De Mey. She checks every fish she buys because in her opinion it is important to see how the catch is being handled. "We use everything from the head to the tail. The lobster is boiled and we make a bisque from the head while the tail is used for the Lobster Tower. The Grouper's body and head carry a lot of meat which goes into the fish cakes and the rest is used for the main course. We are fully sustainable." She calls her place a 'boutique fish shack'. Although we cannot agree on that because it is way more. Taste My Aruba is like Aruba's ever-blowing breeze, a fresh and honest surprise and located on a beautiful spot downtown. "Our guests are mainly tourists and they know how we work. If it's finished, it's finished because what we get from the sea is all we can offer you. The only foreign products I buy are my wild-caught shrimps from Norway and of course beef — we do not have cows on our tiny island."

Restaurant Taste My Aruba: Sustainable, Sea-to-table Savor

Her story

De Mey lived in the United States for 16 years and another 17 years in Dublin, Ireland. "The season in Dublin runs from March to September as after that it gets cold. My birthday is in October so I thought; let me come home to celebrate and I will stay for the cold season in Aruba." She did not leave again. "In Dublin, I ran a culinary business where we would hit various eateries in trendy places during a culinary walk. I started this here too, but everywhere I went the food was standing there forever. Do not get me wrong, I like pastechi but it should not be eaten from a hot box, only fresh." She is firm not to have her food laying around, they make it as you order. "So this place came available and I thought; let me turn it into this posh sandwich shop with everything fresh and all kinds of bread. But it is simply too hot during the day and my kitchen space is only 23 m2." Her clientele were government employees grabbing a sandwich and coffee on their way to work or picking up lunch. It went well but as De Mey says: "To make it half you need to sell 1000 sandwiches at least, I had to make a change." One day she bought seven kilos of fish and prepared it on a George Foreman grill. "This is a historic building, so gas ovens are not allowed, everything needs to be electric. Nevertheless, I sold all the fish in one day, so I kept selling fish." Initially she did it by herself. She woke up every night at 3 a.m. to prepare and carrying foldable tables to her terrace every day. "I had to be here at 7 a.m., when the employees started passing by." Her principle of fresh and local food counted for her sandwiches and salads too. "This is me, my authenticity. I can't do it halfway."

Curious about Taste My Aruba? Make sure to make your reservation for one of the 32 seats. Hours are from 6pm-11pm, Monday through Saturday. Website: <https://tastemyaruba.com/reservations/>.



On the initiative of Aruba Tourism Authority: Prohibited to climb or hang goods in the Fofoti tree at Eagle Beach

ORANJESTAD — The Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.) initiated a concrete effort, as part of the strategic plan to protect and strengthen our environment, to create awareness and protection for our local nature. This in reference to a specific local tree, the Fofoti at Eagle Beach. The tree is standing just in front of the Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort and has become a famous icon on the island.

The Fofoti tree grows everywhere on the island, but specifically close to the sea and the one at Eagle Beach is the most famous. This location is being used for many occasions throughout the year and became a well-known symbol on our island. The famous international brand IKEA even used a picture of our Eagle Beach Fofoti tree as a framed picture for sales in all their stores.

On the basis of a petition by the associates of Amsterdam Manor Beach Resort, a special sign is being placed to explain the locals and visitors about the Fofoti tree and to create awareness about its protection by local law. The main goal of the sign is to educate our locals and visitors that it is not permitted to climb the tree or hang goods in it. The branches could break off and this will damage the tree. It would harm this beautiful icon of Aruba. The protection and maintenance of this area is most important for our visitors, our locals and generations to come. □



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PALM BEACH — “As a new year presents us with added challenges and unrelenting pressure, clients in need of self-care, striving to maintain a vibrant immune system, turn to our professional therapists, for

more than simple pampering,” says Marielle Smeets, Sr. Director of Resort Experience.

The popular oceanfront Palm Beach location, with eight treatment rooms, of-

fers an extensive menu of services for women and men, providing exceptional sanctuary, designed to balance body, mind and soul, for those who arrive at the gate weary and leave completely refreshed.

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el, and iced water. They can then head to the locker room to change into a comfortable robe and slippers before being escorted to their treatment, where a sealed room, with a Hilton CleanStay Room Seal, indicates the space had been recently cleaned and disinfected, ready to receive them.

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All therapists wear aprons to cover their uniforms, which are changed between treatments, and all body massages may be performed with gloves, upon guest request.

Shared service such as saunas, steam rooms, cold plunge pools, locker rooms, and facial services have been temporarily suspended.

Using top quality brands, Hilton CleanStay builds on its already meticulous cleaning standards to provide guests with complete peace of mind, while delivering the same level of reliable and friendly service as before.

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Fleeing New Yorkers squeeze surrounding housing markets

By **SUSAN HAIGH**
Associated Press

Angel Garcia, a single father approved for a mortgage loan of \$300,000, had high hopes in early 2020 of finding a house he could afford in his hometown of Stamford, Connecticut. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Within months, New Yorkers began fleeing the city and the surrounding area, snapping up houses. Home prices that already had been out of reach for many jumped higher. Garcia, who oversees security at Stamford's government building, ended the year still living with his 3-year-old daughter in a Stamford rental.

"It's so hard with all the competition out here and the prices, as they are now. They were already expensive," said Garcia, who has a second job as a security guard.

An influx of people relocating to the state and in particular Fairfield County, on the New York state line, has been celebrated by many including Gov. Ned Lamont, who said in his State of the State address last week that it showed a desire for more spacious living arrangements and an appreciation of "Connecticut values."

But it also has made it more difficult for many to find affordable housing in an area that rates among the country's most unequal places in terms of income



The location of a future construction site of affordable housing is shown Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020, in Stamford, Conn.

levels. A shortage of affordable homes is being worsened by newcomers who often are buying homes quickly and with cash, said Joan Carty, president and chief executive officer of the Stamford-based Housing Development Fund, a nonprofit that finances development of affordable housing and provides loans to first-time homebuyers.

"We absolutely can see it. And it's just making, I think, the level of inequity more glaringly obvious," she said. One day late last month, there were just five single-family houses for sale under \$400,000, with the lowest priced at \$325,000, in Stamford, which is 52

square miles (134 square kilometers) and is considered more affordable than other Fairfield County communities, said Tammy Felenstein, executive vice president and managing director of sales at Brown Harris Stevens Connecticut LLC in Stamford.

"You hear stories, 'Oh, this couple have lost three homes. They've been outbid every time.' And that definitely happens," said Felenstein. She said her brokers are "dying for inventory" in Stamford, a place that can seem like a bargain to many from New York City.

In metro areas across the country, big-city dwell-

ers relocated this year to smaller cities, according to Updater, a relocation technology company that has tracked national moving trends during the pandemic. Connecticut saw more people move into it than out of it for the first time in three years, according to Updater, which said Stamford was the top destination for relocating New Yorkers.

Thomas Madden, director of economic development for Stamford, said that in a typical month before the pandemic, there were roughly \$80 million to \$110 million in housing sales. That shot up to \$146 million in August, \$152 million in Sep-

tember and \$157 million in November. "It's insane," he said. "The prices have gone up and the sales have gone up."

Lamont, a Democrat, noted in his address the advantages of the influx.

"There are many reasons young families and new businesses are giving us a second look and choosing Connecticut," Lamont said, suggesting people may be drawn to the state's schools, city and town centers that offer "some of the best and safest outdoor dining experiences in the country," or the ability to quarantine in a small backyard rather than a small apartment.

"Whatever the reason," Lamont said, "tens of thousands of young families have moved to the state for the first time in a generation because they recognize and appreciate our Connecticut values."

In the same address, he pledged to expand his administration's "commitment to affordable housing."

Max Reiss, the governor's spokesperson, said that while Lamont believes a competitive housing market is good for the state's overall economy, he doesn't believe access to home ownership should be out of reach because of one housing boom — and that's why he supports adequate funding for state housing assistance programs. □

Associated Press

Retail group: holiday sales up 8.3% amid big spending shift

By **ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's largest retail trade group said Friday that holiday sales soared 8.3%, far exceeding its forecast even as the coronavirus kept shoppers away from physical stores.

The National Retail Federation had expected growth in a range of 3.6% to 5.2% for the November and December period compared to the year-ago period.

The outsized gains show how the pandemic has caused a major shift in spending away from restau-

rants and travel and more toward buying goods that focus on activities around the home like home furnishings, food and activewear. That trend has benefited retailers. The retail sales figures exclude sales from autos, restaurants and gas.

Moreover, even within the retail industry, big box stores like Walmart and Target are dominating the landscape, enjoying big sales gains at the expense of mall-based stores that were forced to temporarily close during the spring and early summer and still face restrictions. Shoppers

are consolidating their trips and favoring stores that offer a wide range of goods under one roof as they look to minimize the exposure of the virus.

The National Retail Federation also said that shoppers are looking for opportunities to celebrate during tough times.

"Faced with rising transmission of the virus, state restrictions on retailers and heightened political and economic uncertainty, consumers chose to spend on gifts that lifted the spirits of their families and friends and provided a sense of



In this Nov. 5, 2020 file photo, a Target employee places a curbside pickup purchase into the trunk of a customer in Jackson, Miss.

Associated Press

normalcy given the challenging year," said Matt

Shay, CEO of the trade group, in a statement. □

Insider Q&A: Mark Weinstein, MeWe's anti-Facebook CEO

By **FRANK BAJAK**
AP Technology Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Some users have fled Facebook and Twitter after the platforms booted President Donald Trump and some of his confederates for inciting unrest and spreading false claims about election fraud. Some migrated to far-right friendly sites like Parler or Gab. Others joined a service that aims to stand apart.

MeWe is a 4-year-old, full-featured social media company positioned as an anti-Facebook. It says it does not collect data on its users, and features a Privacy Bill of Rights. In the past year, MeWe more than doubled its membership to nearly 15 million. In the week ending Jan. 12, it was downloaded 787,000 times from Apple and Google's U.S. smartphone app stores, according to SensorTower. While Trump supporters' disaffection with Facebook has surely helped, CEO Mark Weinstein says MeWe owes its growth to "every-one who is infuriated by their data being sold down the river" by surveillance capitalists.

Weinstein spoke to The Associated Press from his southern California home. This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Where are your members? Under your "free-mium" model, how many people pay for services such as additional data storage and video calling?

A: The members are 50% in North America, about 24% in Asia, 24% in Europe and 2% in Australia. Some are in South America, in Brazil and



This undated photo provided by MeWe shows MeWe CEO Mark Weinstein.

Associated Press

Argentina. We're translated into 20 languages. Currently 3% to 4% of our members sign up for premium. We haven't spent a penny on marketing. All our growth is organic.

Q: What does your capital investment and revenue look like? Who is behind the company?

A: We've got about \$22 million from high net worth investors and our advisory board includes Tim Berners-Lee, founder of the World Wide Web, and Sherry Turkle, perhaps the most esteemed academic expert on the impact of technol-

ogy on human beings. We have fewer than 100 employees and we did \$1.2 million in revenue in 2020. Revenue grew 300 percent from November to December.

Q: Your terms of service are explicit about prohibiting hateful and inciteful content and insist it will be promptly taken down. But I've seen some incendiary language in chats. The watchdog Alethea Group reported similar, and it was apparently taken down. How can you be sure you are adequately moderating the site, especially amid

a growth spurt you say has hit 20,000 new users an hour? How many moderators do you have?

A: Social media can get messy in times like these. And just like Facebook and Twitter, and other sites that also moderate we are doing the very best we can. We are expanding our moderation team as rapidly as we can, and we're investigating reports from our members, who are helping. (Weinstein would not disclose the size of his moderation team.)

Q: You say MeWe is not built, as its big competitors are, to serve up politically charged material.

A: We are absolutely not an opinion chamber of one side or another. We are fundamentally different by design from Twitter or Parler or Gab. We're a social media platform like Facebook, where family members and friends connect. Your news feed is purely and exclusively everything you choose to connect to. There is nothing injected into your news feed by us or anybody else on the platform. We don't have trending topics. We don't have boosted content.

Q: What is your stance on potentially dangerous speech and misinformation of the type that could, say adversely impact public health during a global pandemic?

A: We have absolutely no censorship for good people who follow our rules. We don't care what your opinion is, if you're on the right or the left. That's none of our business. Also, MeWe's

structural design prohibits the amplification (of misinformation). Members do moderation for us, but a very deep violation can lead to immediate removal and being reported to outside authorities. For others, a member can be placed "in jail" — temporarily suspended — and then a three-strike rule applies.

Q: You said in a 2019 op-ed piece that you don't believe that breaking up Facebook will solve the problem of competition in social media. Is that still your thinking?

A: Breaking up Facebook would just create a lot of mini-Facebooks. It doesn't solve the problem of surveillance capitalism.

Facebook has lobbyists worldwide influencing legislation and government officials. And it doesn't comply with regulations, anyhow. Regulating Facebook more carefully will only serve to institutionalize surveillance capitalism, make it harder for competition and sort of legitimize their business model, which is really an illegitimate form of capitalism.

Pure capitalism is, plain and simple, delight your customer, build a relationship of love and trust. Respect them and they will be your customer for a lifetime. Facebook has completely broken that bond. Facebook is a marketing company. Facebook is a data company. They're not a true social network. Their customers are advertisers, marketers and political operatives. MeWe's customers are its members. □

FAA approves fully automated commercial drone flights

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Massachusetts company has been granted approval to operate commercial drone flights without a person directing the machine and keeping it in sight. It's the first time that the Federal Aviation Administration has allowed fully automated commercial drone flights. American Robotics Inc.

touted the advantage of its machines as being able to operate continuously without "expensive human labor." The Marlborough, Massachusetts, company said Friday it has tested fully automated drones for four years.

CEO and co-founder Reese Mozer said there could be a \$100 billion market in providing drone services

to industries such as energy and agriculture, but that FAA safety requirements have restricted their use.

The company said its Scout drones have technology to stay a safe distance from other aircraft. They are housed in base stations that allow for autonomous charging and to process and transmit

the data they collect from aerial surveys.

The FAA has allowed companies to operate drones beyond the line of sight of operators, but a person on the ground had to be nearby. Lisa Ellman, a lawyer for the company and executive director of the Commercial Drone Alliance, said allowing expanded operations be-

yond the sight of an operator "is critical for the industry to truly take off." According to documents posted Thursday by the FAA, the drones, which fly along planned routes, will be limited to altitudes below 400 feet (122 meters) in rural areas. The FAA will allow them to have a maximum takeoff weight of 20 pounds (nine kilograms). □

Beetle keeps rivals off scent of food buried for offspring

By MARION RENAULT

Associated Press

Some beetles go to great — and disgusting — lengths for their children.

They scout for a dead mouse or bird, dig a hole and bury it, pluck its fur or feathers, roll its flesh into a ball and cover it in goop — all to feed their future offspring.

Now scientists think that goo might do more than just slow decay. It also appears to hide the scent of the decomposing bounty and boosts another odor that repels competitors.

"It helps them to hide their resource from others," said Stephen Trumbo, who studies animal behavior at the University of Connecticut and led the new re-



This November 2020 photo provided by Dr. Vanessa R. Lane shows a *Nicrophorus orbicollis* beetle in Georgia.

Associated Press

search, published Thursday in *The American Naturalist*. "They try to keep everyone away."

The beetles — called burying beetles — aren't the only creatures who try to deceive their competitors or prey with subtle, sneaky tactics. Large blue butterflies, for example, will imi-

tate certain sounds to manipulate ants. Corpse flowers produce rotting odors to attract insect pollinators that feed on decomposing matter.

The importance of these interactions are being recognized more and more, said Alexandre Figueiredo, a biologist at University of

Zurich, who was not involved in the new study.

Burying beetles and other things that feed on dead animals — including vultures, opossums and maggots — race each other to track down carcasses. Competition is stiff even among burying beetles, which use special antennae to detect the remains from afar.

Burying beetles are relatively large, about an inch long, and black with orange markings. The gut secretions they spread on a carcass are antibacterial, and slow down decomposition. Trumbo and his colleagues wondered whether they also prevented rivals from picking up the scent. □

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AP Exclusive: Selena Gomez: Big Tech 'cashing in from evil'

By **AMANDA LEE MYERS**

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hours after an angry mob of Trump supporters took control of the U.S. Capitol in a violent insurrection, Selena Gomez laid much of the blame at the feet of Big Tech. "Today is the result of allowing people with hate in their hearts to use platforms that should be used to bring people together and allow people to build community," tweeted the singer/actor. "Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Google, Mark Zuckerberg, Sheryl Sandberg, Jack Dorsey, Sundar Pichai, Susan Wojcicki — you have all failed the American people today, and I hope you're going to fix things moving forward."

It's just the latest effort by the 28-year-old Gomez to draw attention to the danger of internet companies critics say have profited from misinformation and hate on their platforms. Gomez has been calling out Big Tech for months — publicly on the very platforms she's fighting and privately in conversations with Silicon Valley's big hitters.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press on Jan. 6, just hours before the Capitol riot, Gomez said she's been frustrated by what she views as the companies' lackluster response. She said they have to "stop doing the bare minimum."

"It isn't about me versus you, one political party versus another. This is about truth versus lies and Facebook, Instagram and big tech companies have to stop allowing lies to just flow and pretend to be the truth," Gomez said in a phone interview from New York. "Facebook continues to allow dangerous lies about vaccines and COVID and the U.S. election, and neo-Nazi groups are selling racist products via Instagram.

"Enough is enough," she said.

Facebook and Twitter representatives declined to comment. Google didn't respond to an AP request



In this Jan 11, 2020 file photo, Selena Gomez attends the premiere of "Dolittle" in Los Angeles. Gomez will put her quarantine cooking skills on display in a 10-episode series for the upcoming streaming service HBO Max.

Associated Press

for comment.

Gomez is among a growing number of celebrities using their platforms to call out social media, including Sacha Baron Cohen, Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Lawrence, Kerry Washington, and Kim Kardashian West. Gomez became passionate about the issue in 2017 when a 12-year-old commented on one of her Instagram posts: "Go kill yourself."

"That was my tipping point," she said. "I couldn't handle what I was seeing." Social media experts have argued that companies like Facebook and Twitter played a direct role in the Capitol insurrection both by allowing plans for the uprising to be made on their platforms and through algorithms that allow dangerous conspiracy theories to take flight. That's even though executives, such as Facebook's Sandberg, have insisted that planning for the riots largely took place on other, smaller platforms.

"The operational planning was happening in spaces that Selena, for example, was identifying to Sheryl Sandberg in advance saying, 'You know, we need to do something about white supremacist extremism online and their ability to just form a group on Facebook and happily talk away to

each other, plan what they're going to do next,'" said Imran Ahmed, CEO of the Center for Countering Digital Hate, which has helped educate Gomez about online misinformation.

In emails shared exclusively with the AP, Gomez told Sandberg in September that "a search for a militia group 'Three Percenters' results in dozens of pages, groups and videos focused on people hoping and preparing for civil war, and there are dozens of groups titled 'white lives matter' that are full of hate and lies that might lead to people being hurt or, even worse, killed."

That's even though Facebook banned U.S.-based militia groups from its service in August.

In the same email, Gomez also points to several ads with lies about election fraud being allowed to remain on Facebook and Instagram and questions why that was being allowed.

"I can't believe you can't check ads before you take money, and if you can't you shouldn't be profiting from it," she wrote. "You're not just doing nothing. You're cashing in from evil." In an email response to Gomez, Sandberg defends Facebook's efforts to remove harmful content, saying the platform has re-

moved millions of posts for hate speech, and bans ads that are divisive, inflammatory, or discourage people from voting. She didn't directly address the advertising examples Gomez pointed to.

"It's beating around the bush and saying what people want to hear," Gomez said about her interactions with Sandberg and Google, among others. "I think at this point we've all learned that words don't match up unless the action is going to happen."

Following the violence at the U.S. Capitol, tech companies made some of their biggest changes to date. Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and other platforms banned President Donald Trump, drawing criticism from some including the American Civil Liberties Union that it was censorship, and praise from others who say the president abused his platform by encouraging violence.

In a thread defending Twitter's Trump ban, CEO Jack Dorsey said "offline harm as a result of online speech is demonstrably real, and what drives our policy and enforcement above all."

In addition to banning Trump, Facebook has been removing video and photos from Capitol rioters. The company also added text on posts questioning the

election, confirming that Joe Biden has been lawfully elected, and saying it was taking enforcement action against militarized social movements like QAnon. While the changes are positive, they're "just a drop in the bucket," said Jeff Orlowski, director of Netflix's "The Social Dilemma," a popular 2020 film that showed how Silicon Valley's pursuit of profit could pose an existential threat to U.S. democracy. Voices like Gomez's can be a huge help to get the message across, considering her hundreds of millions of followers, Orlowski said.

"Think of the advertising revenue from every Selena Gomez post. Think of the advertising revenue from every Donald Trump post, the advertising revenue from every post from The Rock or whoever," he said. "Those people are literally generating millions of dollars for these companies ... The top 20 people on Instagram have probably the most influence over Mark and Sheryl compared to anybody else until finally Congress as a whole gets enough momentum and energy to put some legislation together."

Orlowski and Ahmed both said they're looking to Biden's administration for reforms, including a measure that would hold social media companies accountable for the posts they allow, an effort that has gained momentum and drawn bipartisan support. Meanwhile, Gomez vows to keep fighting as long as she has a pedestal. "While I have this, I'm going to do good things with it," she said. "I think that's my purpose." □

SOLUTION SUDOKU

Difficulty Level: 1/18
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6	9	3	2	4	5	1	8	7
5	2	1	8	9	7	3	6	4
4	7	8	6	1	3	2	5	9
1	8	9	6	5	3	9	4	2
3	6	5	7	2	4	9	1	8
7	4	2	1	8	9	6	5	3
2	1	9	6	5	3	8	7	4
8	3	7	4	6	1	9	2	5
9	5	4	6	7	2	8	3	1

Puzzle on Page 13

U.S. team sure of continuing in America's Cup after capsizing

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — United States challenger American Magic is assessing the extent of damage to its race yacht Patriot, which capsized and came close to sinking during racing Sunday in the America's Cup challengers series.

Skipper Terry Hutchinson said American Magic is confident of making repairs and being able to continue in the Prada Cup series, which resumes on Friday. Patriot, which lost its first three races in the challengers series, was leading Italian challenger Luna Rossa when it capsized rounding the final mark. The U.S. team attempted a complicated maneuver at high speed but was caught by a sudden blast of wind and soared out of the water before tipping over on its port side. All 11 crew were quickly accounted for and none was injured. There were fears Patriot, which was damaged below the waterline, would sink and a buoy was fixed to the top of the mast to mark its position in case it went down. Rival teams raced to the assistance of the American team, along with police and fire officers. The boat eventually was hoisted



United States' American Magic, left, sails against Italy's Luna Rossa on the third day of racing of the America's Cup challenger series on Auckland's Waitemate Harbour, New Zealand, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021.

upright and pumped out and, after several hours, was towed back to its base in downtown Auckland, where it arrived around midnight. Hutchinson said "there was definitely a lot of concern" that Patriot would not be saved. "When you start attaching things to the top of the mast, you know that's not a good situation," he told reporters on the dock. "But we'll assess the situation.

Obviously the boats are highly complicated on the inside. We'll have a good look at her and figure out where we go from here. "We obviously sustained some damage to the bow of the boat," he continued. "It's too early to really comment on how long it takes or the extent of it. We'll get a better look at it when we get Patriot in the shed and from there we're going to keep our sights set on the semifinal, get our feet back

on the ground." While racing doesn't resume until Friday, competing boats are expected to be available to be measured in their race set-up by Wednesday afternoon. Hutchinson said he is confident American Magic will be able to continue in the regatta in which it represents the New York Yacht Club. "Things that don't kill you are only going to make you stronger and I'm exception-

ally confident in the team," he said. "Until you're dead, you're not. "I've always been confident in Patriot and the performances she's shown and I think we'll have to keep it in perspective: we're here, no one was hurt which is a major bonus and we go forward from there. It's the America's Cup; we have to be prepared to fight for it and we will." Hutchinson thanked those who raced to Patriot's assistance, including America's Cup defender Team New Zealand which helped to save Patriot and tow it back to base, providing pizza for the tired and hungry crew. "I do need to make sure I say thank you to the local authorities — the fire department and the police — and particularly to Team New Zealand, Luna Rossa and Team Ineos for the support they gave us on the water," he said. "Team New Zealand in particular helped tow us back to the dock for three and a half hours. "In these moments, you get the true sense of what competitors can do for you and how we should all treat each other. They showed a great display of sportsmanship." □

Kemba Walker returns, but Knicks blow out Celtics 105-75

By JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Julius Randle scored 20 points with 12 rebounds and RJ Barrett had 19 and 11 on Sunday to help the New York Knicks snap a five-game losing streak and beat the Boston Celtics 105-75. Jaylen Brown scored 25 for Boston, which had the best record in the Eastern Conference after winning five in a row but suffered its biggest blowout and lowest-scoring output of the season. "I don't believe that's who this team is," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "We had a clunker. You try to have as few of those as you can. ... We just looked like we were in mud today." All-Star Kemba Walker made his season debut after missing the first 11 games

with a left knee injury but left in the third quarter with a rib injury. Fellow Celtics All-Star Jayson Tatum missed his second straight game with COVID-19. The Knicks led by as many as 11 in the first quarter and made it 15 in the second before scoring the first 10 points in the third quarter to open a 58-35 lead. The Celtics never got closer than 18 after that. "They've played extremely well short-handed, and dealing with a lot of tough stuff with guys being out," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "Sometimes when you get guys back, there's another adjustment you have to go through. ... Getting Kemba back, there was an adjustment for them." **KEMBA BACK OUT**

Walker went to the locker room after taking a shot to the ribs while getting boxed out by Nerlens Noel in the third quarter. Walker said he simply got the wind knocked out of him. He did not return, but he already had played 20 minutes, which was his limit. Walker scored nine points on 3-of-13 shooting, adding three rebounds, four assists and three steals but committing five turnovers. He was 1 for 8 from 3-point range. "It felt really good to be out there. Really good. I almost forgot how it felt," Walker said. "Free, which I haven't been for a very, very, very long time. It feels weird not having pain, if that makes sense." **BENCH STRENGTH** The Knicks had a 38-25 edge in bench scoring, led



Boston Celtics' Kemba Walker (8) shoots against New York Knicks' Mitchell Robinson (23) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, in Boston.

Associated Press by Immanuel Quickley's 17 points and eight assists. "It's just his craftiness," Thibodeau said. "He's got every shot you can imagine." Reigning NCAA player of the year and No. 8 over-

all draft pick Obi Toppin added 12 points and five rebounds in 17 minutes — his most extensive action since injuring his left calf in the opener. He missed 10 consecutive games before returning on Wednesday. □



After losing Mahomes, Chiefs and Henne hold off Browns 22-17

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —

The Kansas City Chiefs had lost Patrick Mahomes to a concussion and were in danger of losing the game. Then their defense and Chad Henne — their defense and Chad Henne?! — kept their hopes of a Super Bowl repeat alive, holding off the Cleveland Browns 22-17 on Sunday to advance to their third straight AFC championship game.

"#HenneThingsPossible," a sidelined Mahomes wrote on Twitter immediately after the victory.

With their star quarterback reduced to a spectator, the oft-forgotten bunch opposite Mahomes' high-powered offense forced the Browns to punt in the waning minutes. Then, his 35-year-old backup showed some moxie with a long third-down scramble and audacious fourth-down completion to Tyreek Hill — when go-for-broke Andy Reid decided to go for it — that gave the Chiefs a first down with just over a minute left and allowed them to run out the clock.

"That's why we love Big Red. He's always on time," Chiefs safety Tyrann Mathieu said. "He's like our spirit warrior out here behind the scenes. He's always trying stuff. We always knew he has one play on the table." Mahomes hadn't played in 21 days, since the Chiefs clinched the AFC's top seed in Week 16, but he hardly missed a beat before leaving midway through the third quarter. He finished 21 of 30 for 255 yards and touchdowns passing and running.

Harrison Butker added three field goals for the Chiefs, who nearly blew a 19-3 lead but survived to



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) is helped off the field by teammate Mike Remmers, right, after getting injured during the second half of an NFL divisional round football game against the Cleveland Browns, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, in Kansas City.

Associated Press

become the first AFC team to host three consecutive conference title games. They'll face the Buffalo Bills next Sunday.

"It stings," Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said. "We came here to win and didn't get the job done. There is a finality to that."

Baker Mayfield threw for 204 yards with a touchdown and an interception for the Browns, who were coming off their first playoff win since the 1994 season. But their inability to drive for the winning touchdown — they punted with 4:23 left in the game — kept them from winning two playoff games in a season for the first time since 1950.

Mahomes completed 11 of his first 12 passes and led the Chiefs to back-to-back touchdowns to start the game. Mahomes ran for the first and let Travis Kelce turn a dump-off into a 20-yard catch for the other, making him the first player since Steve Young in 1995 with three straight play-off games with TDs on the

ground and through the air. In fact, Mahomes was so sharp passing in the first half that he even completed a celebratory heave to a lucky fan in the far reaches of Arrowhead Stadium's upper deck following his touchdown jaunt.

After the teams swapped field goals, with Butker breaking the Chiefs play-off record with a 50-yarder into the wind, the Browns marched for what could have been a momentum-swinging score heading into halftime. But just when wide receiver Rashard Higgins tried to stretch over the goal line for a touchdown, the Chiefs' Daniel Sorensen arrived to deliver a hit, popping the ball loose and into the end zone for a touch-back — the call stood after a video review.

Compounding the miscue for Cleveland? The Chiefs had 1:32 left, plenty of time for Mahomes to get them within range of Butker's strong right leg. His chip-shot field goal gave Kansas City a 19-3 halftime lead.

The entire complexion of the game changed early in the third quarter, though. First, the Browns held the Chiefs when Mayfield threw an interception and Butker missed a field goal off the upright. Then, Mayfield led them briskly the other way, capping a 77-yard drive with a touchdown throw to Jarvis Landry. And finally, roughly 17,000 fans allowed into the stadium because of the pandemic were left sitting in stunned silence when Mahomes was tackled around the head with 7:27 left in the quarter and was left crumpled on the turf near midfield.

Mahomes, already hobbled by a foot injury, stumbled as he tried to get to his feet. He was eventually helped to the blue tent on the sideline, then ran to the locker room, where he was evaluated for a concussion.

"It kind of knocked the wind out of him and everything else," Reid said after the game. "He's doing great right now, which is a real

positive as we look at this. He passed all the deals he needed to pass and we'll see where it goes from here." The momentum finally turned, the Browns began to lean heavily on their vaunted run game, which had produced just 18 yards in the first half. Chubb converted on fourth down with a hard run, then Hunt followed another fourth-down conversion on the same drive by hitting the end zone against his former team to make it 22-17 with 11:07 to go.

It remained with Cleveland when Karl Joseph picked off Henne in the end zone a few minutes later, but the Chiefs defense stuff Nick Chubb on first down, forced an incompletion and ultimately made Cleveland punt it away. The Browns never got another chance with the ball.

BACK ON THE FIELD

Stefanski made his playoff head coaching debut after missing last week's game in Pittsburgh because of COVID-19. Pro Bowl OL Joel Bitonio and CBs Denzel Ward and Kevin Johnson also were back from their illnesses.

INJURIES

Browns: LT Jedrick Wills Jr. left with an ankle injury on their first offensive play. His backup, Kendall Lamm, left with an elbow injury, forcing Blake Hance to make his second NFL appearance.

Chiefs: RB Clyde Edwards-Helaire (ankle) was inactive after returning to practice this week for the first time since mid-December. CB Bashaud Breeland left in the fourth quarter with a concussion.

UP NEXT

The Chiefs begin preparing for the Bills next Sunday. They beat them 26-17 in Buffalo in Week 6. □